

Message Text

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41

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /030 W

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R 240732Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1432

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 0460

E.O. 11652: XGDS2

TAGS: PINR SZ FR AU

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTARY BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON FRENCH
AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA, GEORGES GAUCHER

REF: STATE 017027

1. OUR CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH AMBASSADOR GAUCHER OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD WOULD INCLINE US TO UNDERLINE INDICATION IN REFTEL THAT GAUCHER IS WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD AMERICANS. AMBASSADOR FOUND HIM AN EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE, FRIENDLY AND OPEN COLLEAGUE, WHO SHARED VIEWS AND INFORMATION IN A VERY FORTHCOMING MANNER. GAUCHER, IN OUR VIEW, IS AN EXTREMELY ACCOMPLISHED DIPLOMAT, SOPHISTICATED AND VERY INTELLIGENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE TENDS TO BE ANTISOCIAL, AND WAS WIDELY CRITICIZED IN TUNISIA FOR HIS LIMITED REPRESENTATIONAL ACTIVITIES. GAUCHER ALSO ESCHEWED ALMOST ALL NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS AND REALISTICALLY KEPT TO A MINIMUM HIS SOCIAL CONTACTS WITH THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. AT THE SAME TIME, HE ENTERTAINED TUNISIANS ONLY RARELY, IN CONTRAST TO HIS PREDECESSOR (CURRENT FOREIGN MINISTER OF FRANCE), WHO EVIDENTLY WINED AND DINED BOTH THE FRENCH AND TUNISIAN COMMUNITIES IN REGAL STYLE.

2. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WITH THE DEATH OF LATE PRESIDENT POMPIDOU, GAUCHER'S STAR ENTERED A
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PERIOD OF ECLIPSE. WHEN HE DEPARTED TUNISIA, HE DID

NOT KNOW HIS NEXT ASSIGNMENT, AND THERE WERE RUMORS,
WHICH HE FOSTERED, TO THE EFFECT THAT HE MIGHT GO INTO
RETIREMENT AT HIS HOME IN LYON. HE EVIDENTLY HAD
ANGLED FOR AMBASSADORSHIP IN ROME, AND WAS A LITTLE
DISAPPOINTED WHEN "ALL" HE GOT WAS VIENNA.

3. THE AMBASSADOR HIGHLY RECOMMENDS HIM TO EMBASSY
VIENNA AS A USEFUL, CONGENIAL AND STIMULATING CONTACT.
AS IS THE WONT OF MOST FRENCHMAN EVEN THOUGH THEY
MAY SPEAK FLUENT ENGLISH
HE MUCH PREFERS TO CONVERSE
IN FRENCH. NEVERTHELESS, AS INDICATED IN REFTEL,
HIS ENGLISH IS EXCELLENT.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TUNIS00460
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760028-0539
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760123/aaaaaupy.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 17027
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUPPLEMENTARY BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA, GEORGES GAUCHER
TAGS: PINR, PDIP, SZ, FR, AU, (GAUCHER, GEORGES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006